

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss. I, George B. Tschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, depose and say that the actual number of copies of the Daily Morning Edition, Evening Edition and Sunday Edition of the Omaha Bee, published during the month of May, 1903, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Edition, Circulation. Total, 953,900. Less unsold and returned copies, 19,848. Net total sales, 934,052.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 21st day of May, A. D. 1903. Notary Public.

The advance guard of the Fourth of July casualty list is about due.

The way to get rid of supernumeraries is to make officers who perform their duties by substitute earn their own salaries.

If anybody has found the key to the city hall deadlock, he had better turn it in and get his reward before the lock is forced.

Amending Bulwer, Emperor William says the pen is all right in its way, but goes a great way further if backed up by a good sharp sword.

The edict is out again that the gambling slot machines must go. These devices seem to have even more than the proverbial nine lives of a cat.

If the contention between competing paving contractors continues the prospect for pavement repairs during the present season will be very slim.

In the absence of Prof. Waterhouse Superintendent Pearce wants public judgment suspended, but the suspense is not likely to change public opinion.

Secretary Shaw has declared of his projected trip to Europe. Secretary Shaw is the business man of the cabinet and he puts business before pleasure every time.

Is not sixteen years a rather long time to wait for challenging the validity of constitutional amendments alleged to have been counted in by questionable authority?

King Ak-Sar-Ben IX graciously accepts the felicitations of his royal cousins on the thrones of older monarchies, but yields not a whit to them on the splendor of his court.

A few big damage suits would doubtless be the most effective brake on high speeding automobiles, but it would be far better to slow down without first killing or maiming someone.

The question suggests itself, Is there any danger that the warden of the Nebraska penitentiary may balk at another hanging until his bill of expenses for the last necktie party is paid?

Demands for increased salaries in the office of collector of internal revenue have all been turned down by the department at Washington, but there is no danger of wholesale resignations following as a consequence.

While denouncing Russian atrocities upon the persecuted Jews, we continue to outrage humanity by burning poor negroes at the stake. It would really not be out of order for Russia to hold a few indignation meetings.

So far none of the big corporations that operate in South Omaha have filed complaints with the Board of Review there about the valuation returned by the tax commissioner. They know that it is best to let well enough alone.

Those gentlemanly municipal boodlers of Scranton must also belong to the squad of Pennsylvania officials whom Governor Pennington would protect against libelous exposure in the public prints and embarrassing portraiture by the newspaper cartoonists.

Ex-Lieutenant Governor Tillman of South Carolina, who shot down Editor Gonzales in cold blood, objects to being tried where the crime was committed, on the ground that he cannot have a fair hearing because of the prejudice against him. If he cannot get a square deal in the very hotbed of fire eaters and duel worshippers where can he escape prejudice? If he had been black instead of white he would have been strung up on the spot if not reserved to furnish fuel for a bonfire.

INTERSTATE LAW AMENDMENT.

While the Elkins amendment to the interstate commerce law is said to be working very satisfactorily, it is felt that still further amendments will be required before the law can have the effect that is desired and the fifty-eighth congress will be urged to provide these. Mr. Bacon, chairman of the executive committee of the interstate commerce law convention, says the law should be amended so as to give the commission power to enforce its own rulings and prevent discrimination, not only between individuals, but between different localities and different commodities. He states that the different commercial bodies of the country are much interested in seeing a strong additional amendment to the law adopted which will clothe the commission with fuller powers, especially in the direction of enforcing its own rulings, and in presenting the matter to Mr. Roosevelt he found the president favorable to such amendment.

The advocates of still further strengthening the interstate commerce act and enlarging the powers of the commission are prepared to urge this upon the next congress with great earnestness. The interstate commerce law convention, recently in session, has a membership of about 150 boards of trade and other commercial bodies and these exert a strong influence. The executive committee of the convention has decided to prepare a bill for submission to congress, amending the law so as to allow the commission to correct a rate found to be unjust or unlawful and also to provide for an appeal from the findings of the commission to the federal courts.

While there is no question as to the desirability of the proposed additions to the interstate commerce act, it cannot be confidently predicted that the effort to secure them from the fifty-eighth congress will be successful. Of the members of the last congress who were re-elected it is perhaps safe to say that a majority are of the opinion that sufficient was done for the present in passing the Elkins amendment and that it will not be expedient to go further for a time. It was not an easy matter to get that measure through and it perhaps would have been defeated had the railroad opposition been stronger. How the new members of the fifty-eighth congress regard the question is yet to be developed, but at any rate they will be largely influenced by the re-elected members.

However, no harm can come from continuing the efforts to improve the law and to place in the hands of the commission whatever additional authority the commercial interests of the country deem necessary to the more effective operation of the law. At present there is very little complaint. The railroads very generally appear to be strictly complying with the anti-rebate amendment and to be observing the other provisions of the law. Doubtless there are instances of violation, but on the whole the situation is very greatly improved over that of a few years ago and there is reason to expect that this improvement will be maintained.

MEXICAN PRESIDENT.

President Porfirio Diaz will succeed himself. He is closing his fifth term as the chief executive of Mexico and the national liberal convention has just placed in his hands the nomination for another term, which he has accepted. There was no opposition to him in the convention and there will be none to his election. The retention at the head of the Mexican government of this distinguished man, by far the foremost of Spanish-American statesmen, means uninterrupted peace and progress for our neighbor republic. This is a consideration of no little importance to the American people, in view of the fact that a very large amount of American capital is invested in Mexico and that President Diaz is encouraging American enterprise there. Always a warm and hearty friend of the United States, he has taken the greatest interest in the efforts of capitalists of this country to develop the resources of Mexico and to promote the industries and commerce of that country. There is no question that today American influence is far greater at the Mexican capital than that of any other country and that the government is better disposed to favor and encourage American enterprise than any other.

That this is so is almost wholly due to the friendly regard for the United States and the far-sighted statesmanship of General Diaz, who knows the value of close business ties between the two countries. He is one of the great men of the time and is deservedly beloved by his countrymen.

IMPORTING CONTRACT LABOR.

It is said that there is systematic violation of the law prohibiting the admission of contract foreign labor and a vigorous investigation is being made by treasury officials. The statement is made that a few weeks ago a steamship brought from Europe 2,600 immigrants, who with few exceptions were under contract and sent to cattle ranches and farms in the northwestern states. It is also said that only a few days ago the bureau of immigration obtained evidence of a large consignment of foreign contract laborers to Pennsylvania. The investigation by the authorities is intended to show if immigration agents are operating on the other side and secretly violating the law by shipping large numbers of men from Europe with the understanding that work will be given them. It is believed that the steamship companies co-operate with these agents.

The law prohibiting the importation of alien labor under contract was enacted in response to a strong public sentiment and it should be rigidly enforced. Before the enactment of the law every steamer coming from Europe brought in contract labor, imported to work in the coal mines and in some of the manufacturing industries. Not only were the laborers thus brought in for the most part of a very low class, but the terms of the contracts with them were such as to subject them to practical slavery. Many thousands of these men employed in the coal mines of Pennsylvania, Ohio and Virginia were far worse off in all respects than were the slaves of the south. The overwhelming popular demand to put an end to this was heeded by congress. Undoubtedly there have been many evasions of the law, but it appears from the reports that violations have become systematic. This must be put a stop to. Men who freely come here from abroad to work will be welcome, but we want no contract labor to compete with American wage-earners.

EX PORT FACTO. Whatever may be the outcome of the action brought by former Supreme Court Commissioner Ryan to set aside the amendment to the constitution increasing the pay of members of the legislature from \$3 to \$5 per day and extending the regular legislative sessions from forty to sixty days, there is no ground for apprehension that the new revenue law or any other legislation enacted last winter will be affected one way or another.

There was no time limit for the introduction of bills in the constitution prior to the adoption of the \$5-a-day and sixty-day session amendments, and there was no restriction upon the length of the regular sessions under the forty-day clause of the constitution. The legislature had a right to extend its regular session for any length of time, but its members could draw pay only for forty days, or \$120 in all, for any single session. The contention of Judge Ryan cannot therefore invalidate legislative acts that do not conflict with the constitutional limitations prior to the adoption of the amendments. Bills passed after the fortieth day of the session that received the constitutional number of votes and had the approval of the governor were just as valid as if they had been passed on the first week of the session.

The only question involved in the test case brought by Judge Ryan is whether the members of the various legislatures since 1887 have been overpaid if not overworked. Incidentally a decision sustaining Judge Ryan's position would have the inevitable tendency to cut short the next session of the legislature and its members would be on about the same plane in the matter of pay as hod carriers and blacksmiths' helpers. In any event, however, there is no immediate or remote prospect that any considerable number of the 1,066 members of the eight succeeding legislatures who have drawn pay at \$5 a day since 1887 will turn their overdraft back into the state treasury.

Down at Kansas City they are still fighting over the question of ownership of grain in the cars and elevators destroyed or damaged by the floods, the commission brokers contending that it still belongs to the consignors. The question is not so much as to the ownership of the grain as to the party who shall stand the loss. If the situation were reversed and for some peculiar reason the value of the grain were to be suddenly enhanced after delivery, the grain men would be side-stepping at a lively pace to rake in the profit and tell the shipper that he had parted company with his property irrevocably long ago.

If any member of the late lamented legislature has not drawn his \$5 a day for the full sixty-day session he will have only himself to blame for unparadonable negligence in case the courts should decide that the constitutional amendment by which the pay of lawmakers was raised from \$3 to \$5 a day sixteen years ago was improperly counted in. It is extremely doubtful, however, whether any member of the defunct legislature was so reckless as to leave any part of his per diem or mileage in the state treasury.

One by one our legends of the past are stolen from us. Here comes a Chicago university professor with what he says is conclusive proof that a papal bull over which controversy has raged for centuries is a rank forgery. The next thing we will be told that the pope's famous bull against the comet was simply a joke perpetrated by some black robed jester who had lost his way into the priesthood.

If the names struck off the list of public works employes by the mayor had belonged to republicans instead of to democrats, City Attorney Wright would find no trouble in citing law and precedents to sustain the mayor's position. As the men displaced from the payroll happen to be democratic ward workers, of course the mayor's position is according to Wright entirely untenable.

President Diaz' response to the latest tender of another nomination is likely to become popular with office holders in this country as well as in Mexico. He asserts that it is the duty of every citizen to serve his country for as long and in as many posts as his fellow citizens desire. If he can stimulate the desire in the breasts of his fellow citizens so much the better.

It develops from the reception accorded by democratic politicians to the scheme for bar association judicial nominations that the democrats hereabouts are now opposed to fusion unless it be fusion with the republicans. The old kind of fusion has played out and no longer holds forth any promise of successful coupling with the payroll.

If every man in Omaha who has once been enrolled in Ak-Sar-Ben's hosts of previous years will step to the front with an application for enrollment this year without further solicitation, the army of his royal highness will be twice what its number was last year. And every one of them ought to do it.

Iowa democrats are up against it. If they reaffirm the Kansas City platform every man on their state ticket is sure to be snowed under and if they do not reaffirm the Kansas City platform every man on their state ticket will be snowed under just the same.

A Lost Opportunity. New York Mail and Express. It was a citizen of the most eminent Virginia Judge did not think of an injunction against the Monitor in 1862.

Occupation of the Pacific. New York Tribune. The Philippines will be in operation in a few days. The conversion of the Pacific into an American sea makes steady progress.

Counsel from the Great. New York Mail and Express. No postal official who takes a look at a 5-cent stamp can fail to observe that the face of Grant upon it has a distinct air of saying, "Let no guilty man escape!"

Other People's Money. Philadelphia Inquirer. A New York paper prints an essay on "How to Live on What You've Got." As if that was of any interest to New Yorkers. The game over there is to live on what the other fellow's got.

SEIZURE OF GALVESTON.

Action of Government in Matter Hasty and Ill-Advised. Philadelphia Record. The proceedings of the naval authorities with regard to the unfinished cruiser Galveston, now on the stocks of an insolvent shipbuilding company at Richmond, Va., have a serious as well as a comical aspect. The dispatch of a gunboat to the scene of conflict is a ready-made proceeding. Whether the federal government may defy the mandates of a state court and violently take possession of property within its jurisdiction and in despite of its restraining orders is a question of grave importance.

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Legally this aggregation of structural steel is the property of the builders, or rather of the receiver appointed to hold the assets of the contractors in trust for the benefit of their creditors. Payments have been made out of the pocket of the receiver to the builders, it is true, on account of the contract, but this, at the most, would give the government a lien on the unfinished hull. The claim of the United States might or might not be entitled to preference, but as a question of law it is to be determined in the proper tribunals. The federal government, or rather the officials who for the time being exercise the various functions thereof, have no better right to take the law into their own hands than any other citizen of the United States would have. They are acting in contempt of the injunction of the court of chancery of Virginia, and forcible resistance on their part to its lawful mandate would be quite as reprehensible as the violence of an irresponsible mob. States have rights, and even the federal authorities are bound to respect. It is to be hoped that the matter will be reconsidered and that methods may be adopted by the navy department to determine the differences between it and the Virginia court which will be less subversive of law and order than those proposed to be followed.

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BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

Minor Scenes and Incidents Sketched on the Spot. One of the first things to attract the notice of western and southern people visiting the capital is the clean, fresh and crisp paper currency, which is in circulation; notes which, to those accustomed to the greasy and debilitated bills of the far west, look as though they had just left the bureau of engraving and printing. In fact, there are many provincial visitors to whom such bills are a downright curiosity, just as on the other hand some of the worn and tattered greenbacks of the far west are a "sight" to Washingtonians. A member of the congressional party, who is called every summer to Arizona, Colorado and Utah to direct the work of certain government surveys, speaking of the matter of western greenbacks to a Post reporter, said:

"Just when I went west I used to wonder why people from that section made such ado over the clean and wholesome paper currency in circulation in this city, and, for that matter, throughout the entire east. Now, however, I can understand it. Just when you could have seen some of the bills I saw and handled last summer in Arizona. Why, some of them were positively diseased. Soaked, saturated, limp, flabby, humid, and coated over with sweat, tobacco juice, and dirt, they had an odor so ancient, coppery and fruity as to make one more at ease with the bubonic plague than of the promise of a great government to redeem its pledges. You may laugh as much as you please, but when I tell you that I refused some particularly musky and offensive greenbacks, and that I was actually sick, you are actually afraid of contracting some vile and disreputable disease from them, I tell you the truth. The reason we have clean and respectable greenbacks here is because we are near the treasury, and whenever a bill is soiled with dirt, or worn, or soiled, it is simply to take or to be there and have it redeemed with new ones. The people of the west could do the same thing by sending them by mail, but the trouble is that a large part of the population never heard of the treasury other than in a vague way, and as a place where money is made, who know little or nothing of the redeeming process, and who think that when a bill is made it is intended to last forever. Consequently, as the bills pass around year after year, through greasy notes, stains and smudges by days in the same hip pocket, chock full with the plug of tobacco, and thus become a water-logged, rotten, and tattered as a mildewed leaf, it is remarkable to see the ingenuity which the people employ in patching such bills together with store receipts and newspaper scraps until it finally reaches the hands of some intelligent storekeeper, who knows enough and has sufficient sense to send it on to Washington and have it redeemed. Then, when the bright new bills come back, the crowd in the store gets about to admire them, and remark, 'Ain't them purty?' and 'Ain't them purty in their lives, learn what to do with a bill when it reaches a stage of utter decay, and can no longer be patched. The odor of some of these horrible western bills is a revelation to Washingtonians. The different classes composing the various inks employed in the printing and preparation of these treasury notes, when acted upon for some time like a period of ten or twelve years by various soils and atmospheres, perspiration, and plug tobacco juices, develop a most peculiar odor so fruity and cobwebby as to remind one of things one has read about the bouquet of old wine cellars, and it is no wonder that the saying, 'Let me smell your money' has gained ground in the west, where some of the bills ought first to be passed through the streets before reaching the treasury for redemption."

Those who visited the National Zoo last Sunday were astonished to note the growth of the young tapir born there early in May. The little fellow is today about seven weeks old and thriving amazingly. As usual in young tapirs his stripes have grown brighter since the day of his birth, but now that he has attained his seventh week they are beginning to fade, and in a few weeks they will have disappeared entirely. Some few days ago he had his first bath. Head Keeper Blackburn opened the gate leading to the swimming tank, maintained for the benefit of the Zoo tapirs, and the little fellow, followed by his mother, waded across to the water's edge, nosing about inquisitively with his bill, although wondering at the strange world outside of his cage. When he reached the water he hesitated and appeared rather timid at first, and it was amusing to see his mother following behind and encouraging him to proceed by shouting him gently forward with her short trunk. Finally when the little tapir was all the way in and he found the water would not hurt him, he had a glorious bath, diving and swimming about until his mother felt that he had enough for one day, and left the water with the youngster following at her side.

PERSONAL POINTERS.

Prince George, son of Prince Leopold, of Bavaria, left Japan for Vancouver on May 24, and will return home by way of New York. Mrs. Mary E. Ryle, through another donation, has now brought up her gifts to the fund for the new library at Paterson, N. J., to \$25,000. It is reported that during his coming visit to Ireland King Edward will announce his intention of establishing a royal residence in that country. Henry C. Caldwell, the federal judge of the Eighth circuit court, who will retire from the bench on the 1st of next month, is expected to be succeeded by a surviving appointee on the bench of President Lincoln.

RETURN IN LAND ADMINISTRATION A STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION.

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John L. Griffiths is at work on the life of the late President Harrison. All the private papers of the president, including some unfinished manuscripts, have been turned over to him. Mr. Griffiths was closely associated with Mr. Harrison for many years. He is at present at Indianapolis.

The Rev. John Campbell, the successor of the late Rev. Joseph Parker, in the City Temple, London, has come to the United States for a six weeks' stay, hoping to get experience and a wider knowledge of the Christian world. He is an able man, well known in England, and will fill him in his work in London.

Richard S. Croker, eldest son and namesake of the former Tammany leader, has become special partner in a firm of New York brokers, having put \$100,000 into the business. His brother Frank has no taste for commerce, preferring a career in politics. Richard S. Croker is about 27 years old, and is considered as more like his father than any of the Croker boys.

The Mexican Postal department has taken a new and novel means of informing the public of the weather bulletins given by the Weather Bureau. Every letter which passes through the office is now stamped with the indications for the next twenty-four hours. This stamping is done at the same time that the postage stamps on the letters are cancelled and the receiving stamp affixed.

King Peter of Serbia is scarcely what an insurance man would call a good risk. Prince Alexis, brother of Prince Peter Karageorgievich, who has been proclaimed king of Servia, visited America in 1899. George Madison Randolph, a lineal descendant of Pocahontas and the Randolphs, lives in St. Louis. He claims to be seventh in descent from the famous Indian maiden by her marriage with John Rolfe.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla

To know all there is to know about a Sarsaparilla, take Ayer's. Your doctor will say so, too. He orders it for pale, thin people. Tested for 60 years.

J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

from St. Louis to Newport, R. I., where the captor is to receive his reward of \$30, and where the deserter is probably going to jail for a few months. It is not the fate of the deserter, however, that is the interesting part of this article. The captor is the man, and where the deserter is probably going to jail for a few months. It is not the fate of the deserter, however, that is the interesting part of this article. The captor is the man, and where the deserter is probably going to jail for a few months.

MEANT FOR BIRTH.

Teacher—What is your father's name? Jimmy Turf—Why, Turf. Teacher—Of course; but what is his full name? What does your mother call him? Jimmy Turf—When he is full? I don't dast tell yer, ma'am.—Philadelphia Ledger.

All Fools Not Men—Mrs. Snappe—Oh, all men are fools. Mr. Snappe—Yes? Unfortunately for you, dear, the rule doesn't work both ways.—Philadelphia Press.

May—He's awfully nervous. He tried his best to find out the chess player's name. Fay—Yes, he admitted that to me. May—And just for fun I told him I was St. Louis.—Harpur's Bear.